DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: We hope so. The schedule is being revised.

National Highways.

17. ✻ MR. J. T. MORAIS: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether the survey of the Travancore portion of the National Highways has been completed; and

(*b*) if so, whether they will be pleased to place on the table a plan of the same?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: (*a*) The survey has not been completed.

(*b*) The question does not arise in view of answer to (*a*).

MR. J. T. MORAIS: May I know when the survey is expected to be finished?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: In about four months.

MR. J. T. MORAIS: May I know whether the inspection of the plan as far as Trivandrum is concerned could be allowed?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: Yes, Sir, when it is ready.

MR. A. P. UDAYABHANU: When did you begin the survey?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: About a year ago.

MR. A. P. UDAYABHANU: How many miles have been finished in the District of Trivandrum hitherto?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: About 170 miles have been done.

MR. A. P. UDAYABHANU: How long will it take to reach Ernakulam?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: We started from Ernakulam and we have got down to Trivandrum.

Road from General Hospital to Beach.

18. ✻ MR. VARKALA K. MADHAVAN: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they have decided to widen the road from General Hospital to the beach; and

(*b*) whether several accidents have recently taken place on this road due to the reckless driving of lorries conveying earth for constructing the Aerodrome?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Three accidents have occurred, but they were not entirely due to reckless driving.

MR. VARKALA K. MADHAVAN: In connection with answer (a), may I know whether the work has commenced?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: No, Sir.

Executive Engineers and Assistant Engineers.

19. ✻ MR. VARKALA K. MADHAVAN: Will the Government be pleased to state the names of the Executive Engineers and Assistant Engineers who have been in their stations for more than three years?

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DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN:

(1) Mr. R. Raja Raja Varma, Executive Engineer, Quilon.

(2) Mr. E. Sivaraman Nair, Executive Engineer, Nagercoil.

Arrest of Messrs. A. K. Tampi and C. S. Gopala Pillai.

20. *MR. K. A. MATHEW: Will the Government be pleased to state why Messrs. A. K. Tampi and C. S. Gopala Pillai were arrested after Government's recent withdrawal of prohibitory orders?

MR. S. PARTHASARATHY AIYANGAR *(Inspector-General of Police)*: Because they were absconders and were arrested as such when found.

Political prisoners.

21. *MR. K. A. MATHEW: Will the Government be pleased to give the names of the political prisoners undergoing imprisonment in Travancore now?

MR. S. PARTHASARATHY AIYANGAR: There are no political prisoners undergoing imprisonment now.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: May I know whether R. V. Thomas, former member of the State Congress Working Committee, is a political prisoner?

MR. S. PARTHASARATHY AIYANGAR: He is not a political prisoner but a convict under the ordinary law.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: May I know whether an offence under the Sedition Act is a political offence?

PRESIDENT: Order, Order. So that there might be no difficulty in this matter this Government have always taken the view that sedition according to the Penal Code is the greatest offence under the Law. Therefore people who are guilty under the Penal Code and not under any special enactments are convicts. Their conviction is not like that of a political prisoner and their status will not be that of a political prisoner.

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: May I know from the Inspector-General what he means by the expression 'Political Prisoner?'

MR. S. PARTHASARATHY AIYANGAR: If it is merely on account of his activity as part of any political organisation directed against the party in power at the moment then he is a political prisoner. But if it is really under the recognised Sections of the Penal Code detailing offences against the State, it does not come under political offences.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: Is not sedition also a political offence?

MR. S. PARTHASARATHY AIYANGAR: I have frequently heard that everything is political in this country.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: May I know what the member means when he says that everything is political in this country?

MR. S. PARTHASARATHY AIYANGAR: I have heard it said that when any arrest is made it is a political offence.

PRESIDENT: Order, order. That is easily explained. When a murder case was investigated in Sind recently the argument was that the murders were committed for political reasons. So much so that Mr. Khare, the day before yesterday, stated that he will not regard

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